



USNMC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
8:30pm Eastern, 7:30pm Central

Members Present: Gonnie Schaffer, Rachel Hosking, Alaina Pierret, Michael McDonald, Carol Armbrust, Sherry Deans, Bill Goetz, Aaron Lozano (called in at 8:30 due to conflict with another meeting), Will McGill, Deborah Priester, Peggy Wolfe

Guest Present: John Seibel (came in at 9:33CST, duration 8 minutes)

The meeting was called to order by President Gonnie Schaffer at 8:35EST/7:35CST.

The minutes of the August 12 meeting were presented. Alaina Pierret noted that the minutes were emailed to all board members on August 15 and according to the by-laws seven days were allowed for changes, corrections or amendments. She also noted that none were received. A motion to approve the minutes as distributed was made by Peggy Wolfe and seconded by Sherry Deans. No objections; motion carries.

President's Report

Gonnie emailed a copy of the Blue Book 2014 7th Edition to board members.

Secretary Report

- Sent corrected minutes for website on 8/15
- August 12 Board Meeting minutes submitted to BOD on 8/15
- Sent JE endorsement letters to AKC on 8/15 for MI seminar and 8/20 for LA seminar
- Created pinned post on both FaceBook pages on 8/21
- Re-instated John Seibel, Carlo Pietroniro, Tabatha Ames and Veronica Frosch; John and Carlo were sent messages letting them know their suspensions had been lifted and directed them to the post

Treasurer Report

Mike McDonald asked if there were any questions with the report that was sent. No one had any. Peggy noted that she mailed the undistributed sweeps check to Mike. Alaina asked Mike if he received the emails from AKC regarding the national specialty events not being approved due to lack of fees. He stated that he needed the forms that were sent by Sherry. The group discussed the fees charged by AKC for the events. Sherry stated she received an email from AKC with the fee totals and that she would forward that to Mike. Mike also reported that none of the money has been moved stating that he wants to talk to the people at the bank to see what is offered. With no further discussion, a motion was made by Peggy to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Carol Armbrust. No objection; motion carries.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee – Rachel Hosking, Chair

Committee Members ~ Bill Goetz, Lena Moles and Debbie Priester

- i. We have two new applicants applying for membership:
 - a. David Hala – applying for FULL MEMBERSHIP
 - i. Sponsor form from Gonnie Schaffer is still pending.
 - ii. Sponsor form received from Aaron Lozano
 - b. Mark Reed – applying for SUBSCRIBER MEMBERSHIP
 - i. Name was posted on website August 30th with no member feedback at this time.

A BallotBin vote will be set up for a vote on Mark Reeds membership.

2016 National Specialty Committee – Sherry Deans, Chair

Site paperwork has been submitted to the AKC and Friday has been approved. Just waiting for Clermont Kennel Club to submit their paperwork for 2016 then we can get approved to hold it in conjunction with their All Breed show on Saturday and Sunday. There are fees that need to be paid to AKC (\$50) for the National.

Clermont County Kennel Club will discuss using Rafael Malo Alcrudo at their next meeting. They have a show this weekend and once it's over they will move onto future business.

It was brought up that members offered to sponsor trophies at the last National and never paid, they were given credit for these. Should they be held accountable for what they owe?

Sherry and Carol requested "seed" money for way and means items and fundraising in the amount of \$600. A motion to approve the request for \$600 was made by Peggy and seconded by Debbie Priester. No objections; motion carries. Sherry then questioned the board about what needs to be approved and what freedom they have as a committee. It was agreed that the board should set the guidelines and an idea of the budget and let the committee decide on trophies, fundraisers, etc. The trophy fund was discussed since trophies were pledged but not paid for in past years. The group discussed having a multi-level donation system rather than having individual sponsorship for trophies.

Website Committee – Michael McDonald, Chair

- Embedded Calendar on Website.
Created eBay button and placed on front page of website, also sent to Alaina to put at bottom of any club emails sent out. It will take to directly to the eBay store for USNMC.
- We have 5 items listed on eBay store, this is the limit for now because it is a new account. They will give us more listings after initial period.

Communications Committee – Alaina Pierret, Chair

Committee Members: Bill Goetz, Peggy Wolfe, Ciaran McCloskey, Kip Bouillon, Melody Ginsberg, Neal Pierret

The committee held its first meeting on September 3rd. Those present were: Alaina, Peggy, Ciaran, and Neal. The purpose of this initial meeting was to lay the foundation for the relaunch of the newsletter. Using the feedback from the member survey to determine a frequency, we set distribution as bi-monthly with our first issue scheduled for October 1st. Alaina will handle production and members of the committee will send articles of interest. We also talked briefly about the NeoGram and decided to focus on the first issue of the newsletter then revisit the magazine.

By-Laws Committee – Peggy Wolfe, Chair

Bylaws committee met twice to review the 1st draft of specific verbiage changes to the bylaws.

The 1st draft was sent to the AKC Club Relations Department for their review and feedback.

Two areas were identified by the committee as needing additional feedback from members to finalize the concepts. These two areas being

- 1) term limits (whether or not to have them at all, if yes for how long, and for which board roles)
- 2) replacement process: currently board selects replacements for vacant positions (except for President) but board-selected replacement serves only until next annual election. Question is should we change bylaws to state that replacement serves the rest

of the whole term or should we leave it as is which allows members to essentially approve the replacement or to vote in a different replacement.

Now working on announcement / education / feedback solicitation for general membership of the process.

Judges and Public Education Committee – Lena Moles, Chair

No report received from chair; Gonnie will forward report sent by Lena to her committee. Peggy questioned the qualifications for committee members. She suggested putting something in the newsletter seeking volunteers for the committee. Alaina was asked to send an email to Lena requesting a write-up of committee missions and goals.

Elections of New Members

Mark Reed – membership needs to be voted on by board; BallotBin vote will be setup and sent for voting

Unfinished Business

Alexandria Regional Specialty Report

Mike reported that the forms have been sent to AKC for the Regional Specialty in Alexandria, LA on January 30, 2016 and that judges have been sent to AKC for approval by the local AKC host club. They are: Specialty Judge: Margaret "Peggy" Wolfe and Sweepstakes Judge: Suzanne Storms. He further reported that both have agreed to come judge at their own expense. The forms have been submitted to AKC for the Judges Education seminar to be presented by on Saturday Jan 30, 2016 at 6PM, after the all-breed show at the show location.

Calendar Status Report

Per discussion during the August meeting, Peggy created a calendar under the Gmail account and has added important dates. Bill agreed to take on the task of keeping it updated with help. Mike will send the calendar to Barbara to embed on the website.

FaceBook Procedures

It was reported that the pinned post regarding "Internet Rules of Behavior" has been placed on both FaceBook pages and banned members have been unblocked. Discussion ensued regarding who should be admins on those pages. Alaina and Mike discussed cutting the admin team down from the entire board to possibly three people, one board member and two members. All agreed and Gonnie volunteered to be the board contact and appointed Aaron Lozano as an alternate. They will contact members to determine who should fill the two other admin spots.

Website Inquiries

Peggy stated someone needs to take over the task of replying to inquiries coming from the club website. She reported that Cathy Deluca said she would be willing to do it as long as she was one of two persons, she didn't want to be the sole one responsible, but she needs "official" word before she'll start. Rachel volunteered to work with Cathy on the replies. Peggy asked Mike to notify Barbara to change the email to reflect the new contacts.

New Business

Member Survey Results

The results of the member survey sent in August were included in the meeting packet. Alaina stated that she used the results in her committee to determine a frequency for the newsletter.

Use of BallotBin for Future Voting

The group discussed continuing the use of BallotBin for electronic voting. Peggy stated that it is free and it does meet the AKC requirement for electronic balloting. We discussed pros versus

cons with the package and decided to continue to use electronic voting and try a few more test runs to identify problem areas.

Possible Member Vote for Concurrent Specialty with National Specialty Weekend

Board members discussed the demand from members on FaceBook for a member vote on a concurrent specialty added to the national specialty weekend. Peggy stated that board had voted prior to the vote for the 2016 show proposals to not have concurrent specialties as part of the national weekend. She also noted that before the 2015 and 2014 nationals the board voted to not hold this "extra" show but had been convinced to change their mind. She also noted that during the July board meeting that a motion was made, seconded and passed to not hold the concurrent show. All sides of the issue were discussed again at length. Sherry stated that she just wants an answer one way or the other so her committee can move forward also stating that she doesn't care one way or the other and citing that three shows are easier but will do whatever the board decides. Rachel stated that the board had already made its decision and we need to go forward. Mike stated he would like to see more education to be in line with what other clubs are doing. Debbie and Carol stated that they agreed with the decision that was made previous and publish the reasons to the membership. Lengthy discussion took place regarding a seminar or something to fill the void that will benefit the entire membership. Alaina will work on a blast email to the membership stating the decision and reason. She asked for help with the verbiage since she was not on the board for the July vote.

Working Dog Awards

Sherry discussed having a working dog title to emphasize a well-rounded dog and incorporate events other than just confirmation. Peggy stated that we do recognize all titles and agreed that we need to encourage more than just showing.

Eukanuba Meet the Breeds & Medallion Purchase Request

Rachel discussed the Meet the Breeds event at Eukanuba. She stated that she has spoken to several people that will not be attending Eukanuba and mentioned that maybe some of the local members may be able to attend. She also mentioned that this is probably the last year it will be in Florida and will move back to California. The group then discussed the medallion request. Alaina stated that several years ago a motion was made for the medallion purchase to be a standing approval.

John Seibel – Presentation for Requested Regional Specialty

John was brought on the call and told the group that he has been approached by several AKC clubs to hold specialties at their shows. He offered to help arrange specialties around the country and to help with rosette and award orders. He mentioned the club in Fort Worth has offered to have us as a specialty if we can get everything put together quick enough since there will also be a Mastiff breeds comparison with the Neapolitan Mastiff, English Mastiff and Tibetan Mastiff. Gonnie stated that he will poll the board to get a feel for what the board wants to do since it is so close. It was discussed that the paperwork needs to be filled out and submitted before a decision was made. Gonnie asked Sherry to contact John to ask him to submit the paperwork.

The next scheduled meeting will be held October 14, 2015 at 8:30EST/7:30CST.

With no further business, Debbie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Will McGill. No objections, motion carries. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44EST/9:44CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Alaina Pierret
USNMC Secretary